

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 NSCE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 EB-08  
DODE-00 PC-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /068 W  
-----107302 301134Z /11

O R 291722Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4038  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 11303

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (OBASANJO, OLUSEGUN)  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR THE OBASANJO VISIT

REF: (A) DEPARTMENT-EMBASSY TELECON OF SEPTEMBER 24, LAGOS  
ITEM 9; (B) LAGOS 11061, (C) LAGOS 10734

1. SUMMARY - WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT OBASANJO, AS REPORTED  
IN LAGOS 11106, HAS DECIDED AGAINST DISCUSSIONS OF  
SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN 'POLITICAL' MATTERS (PRESUMABLY CENTERING  
ON US POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA). THIS PROBABLY MEANS THAT  
NOT ONLY WOULD HE NOT WELCOME OUR RAISING BILATERAL SUBSTANTIVE  
ISSUES WITH HIM, BUT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE ISSUES WITH  
US OUTSIDE THE POLITICAL ARENA. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, WE  
NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED BOTH TO RAISE AND  
TO BE RAISED WITH. HE JUST MIGHT SURPRISE US. FURTHERMORE,  
THERE MAY BE INFORMAL OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE VISIT USEFULLY  
TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS, IF NOT WITH OBASANJO  
PERHAPS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS ENTOURAGE. IN ADDITION,  
ANY PREPARATION ON THESE MATTERS NOW SHOULD STAND US IN GOOD  
STAND FOR OUR PLANNING OF THE PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER VISIT TO  
NIGERIA. ACCORDINGLY, GIVEN BELOW IN PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 5  
ARE FOUR ISSUES THAT THE NIGERIAN SIDE MIGHT RAISE WITH US:  
NIGERIAN CANDIDACY FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL, US STRATEGIC  
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RESERVE PURCHASES OF NIGERIAN CRUDE, POSSIBLE REKINDLED NIGERIAN  
INTEREST IN GRANT AID FROM US, AND POSSIBLE NIGERIAN INTEREST IN  
US ASSISTANCE IN REPLANNING NIGERIA'S NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.  
PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 7 PRESENT TWO ADDITIONAL TOPICS US MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO RAISE:  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASSISTANCE AND PEACE CORPS FISHERIES.  
END SUMMARY

2. SECURITY COUNCIL.

AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (LAGOS 10763), OBASANJO MAY WELL RAISE QUESTION OF A SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT FOR NIGERIA. THIS WAS THE ONLY BILATERAL ISSUE GARBA COULD THINK OF WHEN I ASKED HIM SEPTEMBER 23 WHAT ISSUES HE THOUGHT OBASANJO MIGHT BRING UP. (I BRIEFED GARBA ALONG AUTHORIZED LINES.)

3. PURCHASES OF NIGERIAN CRUDE.

IRANDIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMED US THIS WEEK THAT HE HAD HEARD OBASANJO MIGHT BRING UP QUESTION OF CRUDE OIL CONTRACT WITH USG FOR STRATEGIC RESERVE. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF TRIAL BALLOON LOFTED BY OUR IRANIAN COLLEAGUE.

4. GRANT AID.

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT AID DIVISION IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOLD CAO ON SEPTEMBER 21 THAT HE WOULD SUGGEST TO MINISTRY'S PERMSEC THAT OBASANJO EXPRESS DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC

GRANT AID. THIS DIVISION, WHOSE RAISON D'ETRE IS FOREIGN AID, HAS BEEN MAKING THE SAME PLEA FOR YEARS. THE MESSAGE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY OTHER BRANCHES OF FMG. AS DEPARTMENT/AID AWARE, OUR POSITION IN PAST HAS BEEN THAT US REMAINS VITALLY INTERESTED IN NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENT AND HAS MANY RESOURCES TO OFFER BUT THAT PRESENT AND FUTURE ASSISTANCE SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF REIMBURSABLE RATHER THAN CONCESSIONAL  
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AID. THIS APPROACH READILY ACCEPTED AT AUGUST 5 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MEETING BETWEEN EMBASSY AND OFFICIALS OF THREE FEDERAL MINISTRIES. ONLY PLUG FOR CONCESSIONAL AID AT MEETING WAS SPECIFIC SUGGESTION BY DEPUTY FROM ABOVE-MENTIONED DIVISION THAT SOME GRANT FUNDS BE USED TO TOP OFF SALARIES OF AMERICAN EXPERTS IN NIGERIA. THIS PROPOSAL IN TURN DEFY COMMENTED ON BY NIGERIAN CHAIRMAN OF MEETING, WHO SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO USG TO DECIDE ON THE FORMS OF ITS ASSISTANCE AS IT SURELY HAD GOOD REASONS FOR ITS DECISIONS.

5. CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

IN ANY DISCUSSION DURING THE OBASANJO VISIT OF POSSIBLE TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION WITH NIGERIA (PARA 3 OF REFTEL B), WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TOPIC OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT INCLUDED. AS INDICATED IN PARA 8 OF REFTEL C, WE BELIEVE THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS COULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IF IT WERE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCES MASTER PLANNING OF THE NIGERIAN RIVER SYSTEM. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE NIGERIAN BUREAUCRACY, WHICH IS ENTIRELY UNCOORDINATED IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES PLANNING, UNLESS OBASANJO HIMSELF ENDORSES THE IDEA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 11303

6. EDUCATIONAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE.

SEVERAL NIGHTS AGO I HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH EDUCATION COMMISSIONER ALI ABOUT NIGERIA'S EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS. AFTER MUTUALLY CONGRATULATORY CHATTER ABOUT THE SMOOTH (SO FAR) IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR UZIDLE LEVEL MANPOWER TRAINING EFFORT, I ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT WE MIGHT GET TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT THE NEXT PHASE OF THE PROGRAM, I.E. BUILDING UP TECHNICAL TRAINING RESOURCES WITHIN NIGERIA. THIS PRODUCED A LENGTHY RECITAL BY ALI OF HOW DIFFICULT HE FOUND IT EVEN TO CONCEPTUALIZE HIS APPROACH TO THE INDIGENOUS TRAINING PROBLEM GIVEN HIS CONVICTION THAT WHAT NIGERIA NEEDED FIRST AND FOREMOST WAS A BASIC PLAN COMPLETELY REORIENTING NIGERIA'S APPROACH TO SECONDARY EDUCATION. WITHOUT SUCH BASIC PLANNING HAVING BEEN GOT UNDERWAY, HE DID NOT SEE HOW HE COULD COME TO GRIPS WITH OPERATIONAL OR IMPLEMENTATIONAL QUESTIONS. WHAT WAS INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO HIM, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS INTOLERABLE. AS AN EXAMPLE HE CITED THE YABA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE SUPPOSEDLY THE PREMIER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY AND YET WHERE MOST OF THE LAB EQUIPMENT WAS BROKEN. HE SAID THE SUPPOSEDLY EXPERT TEACHERS WERE SO IRRELEVANT IN THEIR EXPERTISE THAT THEY COULD NOT EVEN REPAIR THE EQUIPMENT THEY WERE TEACHING WITH. ASKED ALI WHETHER AN AMERICAN TEAM OF EXPERT EDUCATIONAL PLANNERS MIGHT BE WELCOME, ALI WAS ENTHUSIASTIC. I SAID I COULD MAKE NO RPT NO COMMITMENTS

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BUT THAT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO STUDY AN FMG REQUEST. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO WORK SUCH A REQUEST INTO OBASANJO'S BRIEF FOR HIS US VISIT.

7. PEACE CORPS FISHERIES.

GARBA WAS ENTHUSIASTIC WHEN I SUGGESTED TO HIM SEPTEMBER 23 THAT OUR SIDE MIGHT USEFULLY RAISE PEACE CORPS INTEREST IN A FISHERIES PROJECT IN NIGERIA DURING THE OBASANJO VISIT. (HE SHOWED IMPATIENCE WITH AMBASSADOR MUSA WHO QUERIED 'WOULD THEY HAVE TO BE CALLED PEACE CORPS') DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT GARBA'S ENTHUSIASM CAME ONLY AFTER I HAD CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND AND CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR POSSIBLE OFFER - E.G., THESE WERE JUNIOR LEVEL TECHNICIANS IN FISHERIES WITH ZOOLOGY DEGREES (AS OPPOSED TO BA GENERALISTS) WHO WOULD BE TRAINED BY EXPERTS AT A SITE (UNIV. OKLAHOMA) THAT I HAD INSPECTED, THE FEASIBILITY STUDY HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE IN COLLABORATION WITH NIGERIAN FISHERIES EXPERTS AND WAS IN THEIR HANDS FOR STUDY NOW, ONLY SOME 26 VOLUNTEERS WERE ENVISAGED AT THE OUTSET AND NOT TO ARRIVE UNTIL NEXT SUMMER, ETC. IT WAS ONLY AFTER THESE KINDS OF ASSURANCES THAT GARBA WARMED UP. AFRICAN BUREAU, PEACE CORPS AND I SHOULD TALK TOGETHER IN OCTOBER ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT MOVE AHEAD ON THIS DURING OBASANJO VISIT. WE MUST USE CARE.  
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## Message Attributes

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